
Darren Winchester
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EDUCATION

- 2005 Bachelor of Science, Fire and Safety Engineering Technology, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY
- 2002 Associate of Applied Science, Fire Science Technology, Richland Community College, Decatur, IL
- 1999 Graduate, Argenta-Oreana High School, Argenta, IL

SEMINARS AND ADVANCED TRAINING

- 2020 * Forensic Engineering: Learning from Failures, Edx, Delft University of Technology
- *Central Illinois Association of Fire Investigators Training Conference, Peoria, IL
- * NFPA 1021 Fire Investigation, Target Solutions
- * 2021 NFPA 921, Chapter 19, Fire Cause/Classification, IAAI Online Training Course
- *NFPA 96 Inspecting Commercial Kitchens, Phillip Ackland Online Training Course
- *NFPA 921 2021 Edition Updates, Steve Riggs, Liability and Risk Management Institute

- 2019
- * IL Chapter IAAI Annual Training Conference, Champaign, IL
 - * Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes, CFITrainer.net
 - * Fire Flow Analysis, CFITrainer.net
 - * Investigating Fatal Fires, CFITrainer.net
 - * Certified, Principles of Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.net
 - * NFPA 1001 Protection of Evidence of Fire Origin and Cause, Target Solutions
 - * NFPA 1001 Fire Behavior, Target Solutions
 - * Carbon Monoxide Poisoning, Target Solutions
 - * Introduction to Criminalistics, University of Maryland University College
 - * Criminalistics I, The Comparative Disciplines, University of Maryland University College
 - * Philosophy of Science for Engineers and Scientists, Edx, KTH Royal Institute of Technology
- 2018
- * IL Chapter IAAI Annual Training Conference, Champaign IL
 - Fire Dynamics at the Fire Scene
 - Evidence Collection and Processing at the Fire Scene
 - * Electrical Safety, CFITrainer.net
 - * Magne-Tek – A Case Study in the Daubert Challenge, CFITrainer.net
 - * Understanding the Investigator's Job: A Guide for Non-Investigators, CFITrainer.net
 - * Understanding Undetermined, CFITrainer.net
 - * Investigating Fatal Fires, CFITrainer.net
 - * Managing Complex Fire Scenes, CFITrainer.net
- 2017
- * Certified Fire Investigator, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.
 - * Fire Investigator, Pro Board
 - * Fire Protection Structure and System Design, Eastern Kentucky University
 - * Fire Protection Hydraulics and Water Supply, Eastern Kentucky University
 - * Introduction to Youth-Set Fires, CFITrainer.net
 - * Thermometry, Heat, and Heat Transfer, CFITrainer.net
 - * Investigating Fire and Explosion Incidents Involving a Line-of-Duty Death, CFITrainer.net
 - * Insurance and the Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.net
 - * Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator, CFITrainer.net
 - * Fire Chemistry, CFITrainer.net
 - * Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical, and Fuel Systems, CFITrainer.net
 - * Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake, and Accessory Systems, CFITrainer.net
 - * Discovery in Criminal Cases, CFITrainer.net
 - * Discovery in Civil Cases, CFITrainer.net

- 2016
- * Fire Protection Systems, Eastern Kentucky University
 - * Human Behavior and Fire, Eastern Kentucky University
 - * Practical Applications of Fire Dynamics and Modeling, National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD
 - * Central Illinois Fire Investigators Conference, East Peoria IL
 - * Ethics and Social Media, CFITrainer.net
 - * Fire Protection Systems, CFITrainer.net
 - * Introduction to Youth Set Fires, CFITrainer.net
 - * Investigating Fire & Explosion Incidents Involving a Line of Duty Death, CFITrainer.net
- 2015
- * The Deposition: Part 1, CFITrainer.net
 - * The Deposition: Part 2, CFITrainer.net
 - * Fire Investigator: Module 1, Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office
 - * Fire Investigator: Module 2, Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office
 - * Fire Investigator: Module 3, Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office
 - * Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony, IAAI
 - * IL Chapter IAAI Annual Training Conference, Champaign IL
 - Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation
 - Kitchen Fires
 - * Residential Natural Gas Systems, CFITrainer.net
 - * Investigating National Gas Systems, CFITrainer.net
 - * Post Flashover Fires, CFITrainer.net
- 2014
- * Certified Evidence Collection Technician, IAAI, Champaign, IL
 - * DNA, CFITrainer.net
 - * Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab?, CFITrainer.net
 - * Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, CFITrainer.net
 - * Fire Dynamics Calculations – Version 2.0, CFITrainer.net
 - * Residential Electrical Systems, CFITrainer.net
 - * Basic Electricity, CFITrainer.net
 - * Process of Elimination, CFITrainer.net
 - * The Potential Value of Electronic Evidence in Fire Investigations, CFITrainer.net
 - * Fundamentals of Interviewing, CFITrainer.net
 - * Effective Investigation and Testimony, CFITrainer.net

- 2013
- * Illinois Chapter, IAAI 30th Annual Training Conference, Champaign IL
 - * Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation Seminar, Indianapolis, IN
 - * A Ventilation-Focused Approach to the Impact of Building Structures and Systems on Fire Development, CFITrainer.net
 - * An Analysis of the Station Nightclub Fire, CFITrainer.net
 - * Arc Mapping Basics, CFITrainer.net
 - * An Analysis of the Charleston Sofa Super Store Fire, CFITrainer.net
 - * Critical Thinking Solves Cases, CFITrainer.net
 - * DNA Evidence, CFITrainer.net
 - * Explosion Dynamics, CFITrainer.net
 - * Fire Investigator Scene Safety, CFITrainer.net
 - * Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction, CFITrainer.net
 - * How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.net
 - * Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling, CFITrainer.net
 - * Search and Seizure, CFITrainer.net
 - * Understanding Fire Through the Candle Experiments, CFITrainer.net
 - * Using Resources to Validate your Hypothesis, CFITrainer.net
 - * Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, CFITrainer.net
- 2012
- * Documenting the Event, CFITrainer.net
 - * Ethics and the Fire Investigator, CFITrainer.net
 - * Introduction to Evidence, CFITrainer.net
 - * NFPA1033 and Your Career, CFITrainer.net
 - * Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene, CFITrainer.net
 - * The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921, CFITrainer.net
 - * The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, CFITrainer.net
 - * Wildland Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.net
- 2005
- * NAFI International Fire Arson and Explosion Training Program, Richmond KY

Certifications

Office of the IL State Fire Marshal

Fire Investigator, Confined Space Rescue Technician, Structural Collapse Technician, Rope Rescue Technician, Fire Service Instructor I, Firefighter II, Hazardous Materials Operations, Technical Rescue Awareness, Fire Service Vehicle Operator, Fire Apparatus Engineer

Illinois Department of Public Health

EMT-Basic

National Association for Search and Rescue

Search and Rescue Technician-II

National Wildfire Coordinating Group

Wildland Firefighter-Type I

Single Resource Crew Boss

Engine Boss

National Association of Fire Investigators

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator – 2005

Certified Fire Investigation Instructor – 2005

Recertified as Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator – 2013

Recertified as Fire Investigation Instructor – 2013

International Association of Arson Investigators

Certified Fire Investigator – 2017

Certified Evidence Collection Technician – 2014

Certified Fire Investigation Technician - 2013

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)

Illinois Chapter of IAAI

National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)

International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)

Associated Firefighters of Illinois (AFFI)

FIRE SERVICE EXPERIENCE

2013 – Present

FireTech, Inc.

Fire Investigator (5/2016 – Present)

Fire Investigation Assistant (7/2013 – 5/2016)

